

# Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement 1

One of the most important rules of writing is this one: *A pronoun must agree with its antecedent.*

Here's what the rule means: Every time you use a pronoun in place of a noun, you must be sure that the pronoun is the same number (singular or plural) and the same person (first, second, third) as the original noun. (For more information, see 758.1 in *Texas Write Source*.)



## Example

**The four deer scattered as the skunk approached **them**.**

(A pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent. Because the noun “deer” is plural, the pronoun “them” must also be plural.)



## Directions

Cross out the incorrect pronouns in the following sentences. Write corrections above them. The first one has been done for you.

1. My grandma rolled her eyes when she heard ~~they~~<sup>she</sup> can buy eggs laid by vegetarian chickens that don't eat bugs or meat by-products.
2. Grandma always thought having chickens eat bugs was good for it.
3. Grandma says that when she was growing up, kids were expected to eat whatever was put in front of you, and so were chickens.
4. “Things change,” I said. “When IBM started in the '50s, he thought five computers throughout the world would be enough to do the job.”
5. My grandma said her doesn't see what computers have to do with chickens.
6. I pointed out that computers are used to coordinate the shipping of fruits and vegetables, making it available throughout the world any time of the year.
7. Grandma said we should ask a chicken if they likes fruits and vegetables before we make them eat this food.

8. “Not chickens, Grandma—people demand special eggs, because he’s gotten used to foods from all over the world,” I explained.
9. My grandma says they knows what they would do if somebody started demanding special eggs at their house.
10. Grandma would plunk that peanut butter jar down on the table and invite her guest to make themselves a sandwich.
11. “What if a person eats a special diet for their health?” I asked.
12. As long as she doesn’t have to cook it, Grandma supposes a person can eat whatever he or she wants.
13. A person should mind their manners, Grandma says.
14. A guest should eat what they is served.
15. People shouldn’t make unreasonable demands on the hostess even if it’s important to stay on her diets.
16. People should thank the cook, Grandma says, even if him meal is terrible!

**Next Step** Write a story about something your grandmother or grandfather says (or base your story on a fictional grandmother or grandfather). Try to use a few pronouns in your story. Underline your pronouns and circle their antecedents. Check that the pronouns agree in number and in person with their antecedents. Share your story aloud with a partner.